SECRET

EXCISE

73.1
Ee ED

March 8, 1962 - Thursday

/MR

BY QEW DATE 6.17.81

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

The Syrian Ambassador, Abdul Rahman El Azem, called on me. He was born in 1916, of a wealthy land-owning family, educated at the French University in Beirut, where he graduated in law. He entered politics in 1947, becoming Minister of Finance. He also served in the Ministries of National Economy and Foreign Affairs. Named Ambassador to Egypt and the Sudan in 1956, he went to Madrid in 1958 as UAR Ambassador. Thereafter, in the autumn of 1961, he became Ambassador to Japan. After the UAR split, he returned to Syria. He started learning English six months ago, and has made remarkable progress, since he is easily able to sustain a conversation. His French is fluent.

DECLASSIFIED